

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in Virginia coastal waters.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

December 18, 2012 to January 15, 2013

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a proposed federal action to determine if it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP) established pursuant to the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The VCP seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:

DOD/U.S. Navy

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Department of the Navy (Navy) proposes to conduct military readiness training and research, development, test and evaluation activities within the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Area. The AFTT Area is in the western Atlantic Ocean and encompasses the waters off the east coast of North America and the Gulf of Mexico. The area covers approximately 2.6 million nautical square miles of ocean area, and includes designated Navy operating areas and special use airspace. Virginia offshore and inland coastal waters in the Study Area includes the Virginia Capes (VACAPES) Range Complex and the lower Chesapeake Bay. The VACAPES Range Complex spans 270 miles along the coast from Delaware to North Carolina from the shoreline to 155 nautical miles (nm) seaward, and includes special use airspace with associated warning and restricted areas, and surface and subsurface sea space of the VACAPES Operations Area (OPAREA). The VACAPES Range Complex also includes established mine warfare training areas located within the lower Chesapeake Bay and off the coast of Virginia. Proposed activities have the potential to impact sediments and water quality, air quality, marine habitats, marine mammals, sea turtles and other marine reptiles, birds, marine vegetation, marine invertebrates, fish, cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, and public health and safety. The Navy has submitted a Federal Consistency Determination that finds the proposed activities consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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